

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: 74TH FAO COUNCIL: COMMITTEE OF WHOLE: U.S.-CANADIAL TALKS

REF: STATE 224596

1. FODAG HAS REVIEWED ISSUE RAISED IN REFTEL PRELIMINARILY WITH SECRETARIAT AND WITH SELECTED GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR) MEMBERS (UK, FRG, JAPAN, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA) WITH RESULTS AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. DECAPRONA OF FAO CONFERENCE UNIT OFFERED FOLLOWING REASONS FOR FACT THAT COMMITTEE OF WHOLE NOT UTILIZED SINCE JUNE, 1975 FAO COUNCIL.

(A) SMALL DELEGATIONS HAVE DIFFICULTY COVERING BOTH CONFERENCE AND PLENARY, AS DO CHAIRMEN OF PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES.

(B) WITHOUT FULL VERBATIMS IN COMMITTEE OF WHOLE, NO RECORD AVAILABLE OF GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS ON LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES.

(C) NOW THAT PC AND FC ARE ESSENTIALLY GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, NECESSITY FOR FULLER REVIEW OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS DIMINISHES.

(D) ECONOMY.

U.S. REP DID NOT, HOWEVER, PITCH DECAPRONA ON REACTIVATION.

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3. AMONG PERM REPS, LIEBER (FRG), WHO HAS LONGEST EXPERIENCE, CONFIRMED UTILITY OF COMMITTEE OF WHOLE IN PAST, NOTING THAT IT TENDED TO BE SPARSELY COVERED BY G-77 DELS AND THEREFORE WELL SUITED TO TYPE OF FOCUS ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES GGR DESIRED. HE FURTHER OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT, DESPITE LENGTH OF FINANCE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL AGENDAS, IT

WAS NOT CLEAR THAT KEY ISSUES OF BUDGETARY NATURE WOULD BE COMING BEFORE NOVEMBER COUNCIL, A SITUATION HE DEPLORED AS ILLUSTRATING THE CLOSER HAND DG TENDED TO PLAY ON OUDGETARY MATTERS IN COMPARISON TO SOME PREDECESSORS WHO PROVIDED MORE DETAIL ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, HE OBSERVED THAT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, IN HIS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, LIKELY NOT TO WISH SHARE CONTROL OF DEBATE WITH VICE CHAIRMAN WHO WOULD NORMALLY CHAIR ANY REACTIVATED COMMITTEE OF WHOLE, WITHOUT SUPPORT OF CHAIRMAN, LIEBER FELT ANY EFFORT TO REACTIVATE COMMITTEE THROUGH PITCH TO SECRETARIAT WOULD BE FRUITLESS, GIVEN DG'S DEFERENCE TO G-77.

4. OTHER GGR MEMBERS CITED ABOVE WELCOMED IDEA OF REACTIVATING COMMITTEE BUT SHARED LIEBER VIEW THAT IT COULD BEST BE DONE BY RAISING ISSUE WITH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AS SOON AS HE REAPPEARS IN ROME (PERHAPS AT TIME OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE). ALL INDICATED THEY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH AN EFFORT PROVIDED IT DID NOT APPEAR TO TARGET EXCLUSIVELY ON 74TH COUNCIL. THEY SHARED LIEBER'S PREFERENCE FOR MAKING CASE TO SHAIB THAT MORE CARE AND TIME ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES NEEDED THAN PLENARY COULD PROVIDE WITH VIEW TO BUILDING CASE FOR REACTIVATION OF COMMITTEE AT 75TH COUNCIL AND TO SENSITIZING SHAIB TO PROBLEM FOR HIS CONSIDERATION IN MANAGING 74TH COUNCIL AGENDA.

5. IN FODAG'S VIEW, THIS STRATEGY MAKES MORE SENSE THAN FRONTAL, MINORITY PITCH TO DG,S SECRETARIAT. BUILDING IT WILL DEPEND LARGELY UNCLASSIFIED

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ON (1) VIGOROUS WESTERN, ESPECIALLY CANADIAN, PERFORMANCE IN FINANCE COMMITTEE, DURING WHICH DG MUST BE ASKED TO PUT MORE CARDS ON TABLE RE 1980-81 BUDGET, COSTS OF COUNTRY REPS, AND RE VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES SUCH AS CALCULATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECT OF POST ADJUSTMENTS OF CURRENT VACANCY RATES; (2) PURSUIT OF THESE ISSUES AT 74TH COUNCIL IN MANNER WHICH ILLUSTRATES TO CHAIRMAN THAT PLENARY CONSIDERATION INADEQUATE AND UNPERSUASIVE FOR PRINCIPAL FAO CONTRIBUTORS.

6. BELIEVE THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE RENEWED WITH CANADIANS AND THAT, IF THEY SHARE THIS VIEW, U.S. REP SHOULD MOVE AHEAD ALONG LINES INDICATED IN PARA 4 ABOVE.GARDNER

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